



## **REPORT OF THE PUBLIC INQUIRY ON THE NUMBERING REGULATIONS, 2008**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Nigerian Communications Commission (the Commission) pursuant to its powers under Section 72 of the Nigerian Communications Act 2003 (the Act), commenced the process of reviewing the Numbering Regulations (the Regulations).

Based on the Commission's policy of participatory rule-making, the Draft Regulations was published on its website for comments from the general public, particularly its licensees and other stakeholders.

Further to this, the Commission received submissions from Airtel Networks Limited.

As required by Section 58 of the Act, a Public Inquiry on the Draft Regulations was scheduled for Thursday, July 27, 2023 and a Notice of the Public Inquiry was published in the Guardian and Daily Trust Newspapers on Friday, June 30, 2023.

### **2.0 THE PUBLIC INQUIRY**

The Public Inquiry held both physically and virtually as scheduled. It commenced at 11:18am and was chaired by the Executive Commissioner, Stakeholders Management (EC-SM), Barrister Adeleke Adewolu. Attendees at the Public Inquiry included Staff of the Commission, representatives of telecommunications companies and other interested stakeholders.

The EC-SM welcomed everyone present, noting that the event was key to the rule-making process of the Commission. He urged everyone to apply themselves maximally to the event for the benefit of the industry.

Engr. Kings Adeyemi (Principal Manager, Technical Standards and Network Integrity Department) gave an overview of the Draft Numbering Regulations. Mr Oludayo Okeowo (Deputy Manager, Telecoms Laws & Regulations Unit) made a presentation on the comments received prior to the Public Inquiry.

## **A. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE DRAFT NUMBERING REGULATIONS**

The Draft Numbering Regulations, (the Regulations) is made up of thirteen (13) parts of Fifty- Four (54) Sections which provide a regulatory framework for the control, planning, administration, management and assignment of Numbers, pursuant to section 128(1) of the Act.

The Regulations is intended to promote investment, facilitate competition and protect customers by ensuring that, numbers are understood to be national resources that are not owned by customers or licensees, numbers can be assigned efficiently, quickly, transparently and fairly, without undue discrimination against particular customer classes, licensee types and communications technologies; shortages of numbers can be predicted and prevented in timely ways ; and uses of numbers can be monitored and controlled to avoid detriment to the interests of customers.

## **REVIEW OF COMMENTS RECEIVED BEFORE THE PUBLIC INQUIRY**

### **1. AIRTEL NETWORKS LIMITED**

#### **1.1 Comment**

Regulation 27(b) - Withdrawing Numbers- The provision on withdrawal of numbers that have already been allocated to subscribers should be qualified to only instances when the Commission intends to re-plan the national numbering plan. In addition, the notice period to subscribers should be increased from 2 months to 3 months.

**Reason:** There are significant number of customers who have paid huge sums for special numbers on the network who would be at the receiving end and suffer loss. Consequently, an action of this magnitude should not be open to any reason but limited to when the Commission needs to re-plan the national numbering plan, otherwise it creates room for uncertainty. Furthermore, in the event this occasion arises, sufficient time would be required for compensating the subscribers and for replacement arrangements.

**D GENERAL COMMENTS**

Mr. Oludayo Okeowo (Deputy Manager, Telecoms Laws & Regulations Unit) thanked everyone for coming and noted that the session was very informative. He stated that all the issues raised will be considered and consolidated to benefit the Telecommunications Industry.

The Public Inquiry ended at 12:45pm.

**Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023**

**Professor Umar Garba Danbatta, *FNSE, FRAES, FAEng, FNIEEE***  
**Executive Vice-Chairman/CEO**  
**NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**